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MASSACHUSETTS

Historic State Parks

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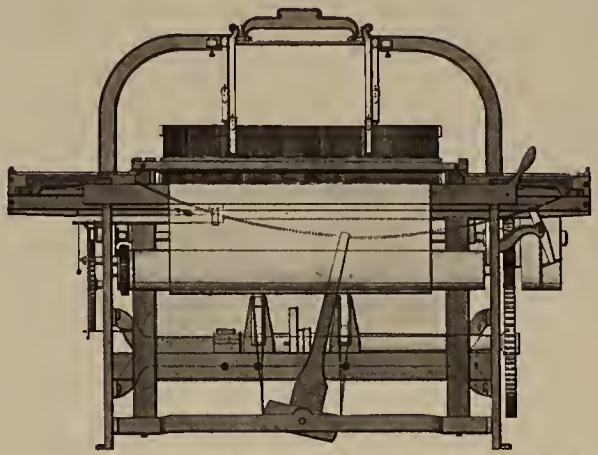
HISTORY, CULTURE and ... RECREATION

Throughout Massachusetts State Parks, there are opportunities to experience our common heritage first-hand. In scenic locations across the Commonwealth, historic and cultural sites appear around the bend of a river, at the summit of a mountain, at the crest of a trail and in the heart of a city.

You can walk through history as you explore and experience state parks across Massachusetts, from the Summit House atop Mt. Holyoke, through the hills and streams of the Connecticut River Valley, to Plymouth Rock on Cape Cod Bay. Discover picnic spots overlooking abandoned quarries in North Adams and Rockport and walk along the carriage paths of former country estates in Easton, Newburyport and Topsfield. Take a scenic ride on a restored railroad in Holyoke or experience the tranquility of the waterfalls which once powered mills in Paxton. Learn how water was used to power the Industrial Revolution while exploring the canal systems in Lawrence, Lowell, Uxbridge and Holyoke. All of this and much more awaits you in Massachusetts State Parks.



Power loom used in the textile mills. (Courtesy of the University of Massachusetts, Center for Lowell History)

BERKSHIRES

1 Mt. Greylock State Reservation

At 3,491 feet, Mount Greylock is the highest peak in Massachusetts. Acquired by the Commonwealth in 1898, it was the first state park and is still one of the most popular. For years, Mt. Greylock has inspired artists and writers, including noted authors Herman Melville and Henry David Thoreau. After arriving at the mountain summit by foot-trail or auto, you can see a panorama of five states on a clear day. Bascom Lodge, built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1937, still provides overnight accommodations and meals at the summit during the summer and fall.

Rockwell Road, Lanesborough (413) 499-4262 *West on Massachusetts Turnpike to exit 2, west on Route 20, north on Route 7 to Lanesborough, turn east on Old Main Street and follow signs.*

2 Natural Bridge State Park

The site of a major marble quarry from 1810 until 1947, Natural Bridge State Park offers visitors the opportunity to tour the abandoned quarry and see the only marble dam in North America. You can also examine the natural marble arch for which the park is named and learn the wonders of geological history from the fascinating rock formations throughout the park.

Route 8, North Adams (413) 663-6312 *Route 2 to North Adams to Route 8, north one mile, follow signs. (Open only mid-June to October).*

3 Western Gateway Heritage State Park

The saga of one of history's greatest engineering feats - the nearly five-mile long Hoosac Tunnel - is told at Western Gateway Heritage State Park. Relive the railroad tunnel experience through the sounds of dripping water, pick-axes against stone, an explosion and ghost stories. Located in a former Boston and Maine freightyard, the park's six buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Route 8, North Adams (413) 663-6312 *Route 2 to North Adams, to Route 8 south, follow signs for the marketplace at Heritage State Park.*

CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY

4 Gardner Heritage State Park

Learn about chairmaking in Gardner, still known as "Chair City", and visit numerous furniture factory outlets. The downtown Visitors Center offers tourist information and exhibits tracing the silversmithing and furniture-making industries in Gardner.

Lake Street, Gardner (508) 630-1497 *Route 2 to exit 22 (Route 68), Route 68 north, follow Heritage State Park signs which lead to Visitors Center.*

5 **Holyoke Heritage State Park**

This downtown park features a Visitors Center where you can learn how paper was made in Holyoke. The park is also home to a children's museum, a restored antique merry-go-round, the Volleyball Hall of Fame and a craft shop. Historic railroad cars take passengers on a 10-mile route through Holyoke and the surrounding countryside.

Appleton Street, Holyoke (413) 534-1723 *Massachusetts Turnpike to exit 4 (West Springfield), Route 91 north to exit 16, right at ramp, right on Appleton Street (7th traffic light), Heritage State Park is on left.*

6 **Skinner State Park**

The recently restored Summit House atop Mt. Holyoke has been welcoming visitors since the 1850's. Throughout the latter half of the 19th century, John and Fannie French operated the Summit House and offered their guests accommodations and entertainment, including a bowling alley. From 1861 until 1894, it was one of New England's most popular summer resorts. Today, visitors can tour the house and enjoy breathtaking views of the Connecticut River Valley from the porches and observation deck during the summer months. Skinner State Park is included in the Rural Hockanum National Historic District.

Route 47, Hadley (413) 586-0350 (Summit and Halfway Houses) *Massachusetts Turnpike to exit 4, Route 91 north to exit 19 (Hadley/Amherst, Route 9), Route 9 east to Route 47, Route 47 south (approximately 4 miles), entrance is on left.*

a Restored railroad cars at Holyoke Heritage State Park. (Photo by Gene Peach)

b Visitors Center at Western Gateway Heritage State Park. (Photo by Nick Noyes)

c Henry David Thoreau. (Photo by Benjamin D. Maxham, 1856)

d The Farm Complex at Great Brook Farm State Park. (Photo by Gene Peach)

Above: The print room at Pacific Mills, Lawrence, Massachusetts, 1914. (Courtesy of Immigrant City Archives, Lawrence, Massachusetts)

CENTRAL

7 **Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park**

The Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park recalls the role of canals in transporting raw materials and manufactured goods between emerging industrial centers. Walk along restored sections of the Blackstone River Canal and Towpath from the Riverbend Farm Visitors Center. This park is operated in conjunction with the Blackstone River National Heritage Corridor, which extends from Worcester to Providence, Rhode Island.

287 Oak Street, Uxbridge (508) 278-6486 *West on Massachusetts Turnpike to exit 11, Route 122 south into Uxbridge, turn east onto East Hartford Avenue, proceed one mile to Oak Street, right onto Oak Street, Visitors Center is on left.*

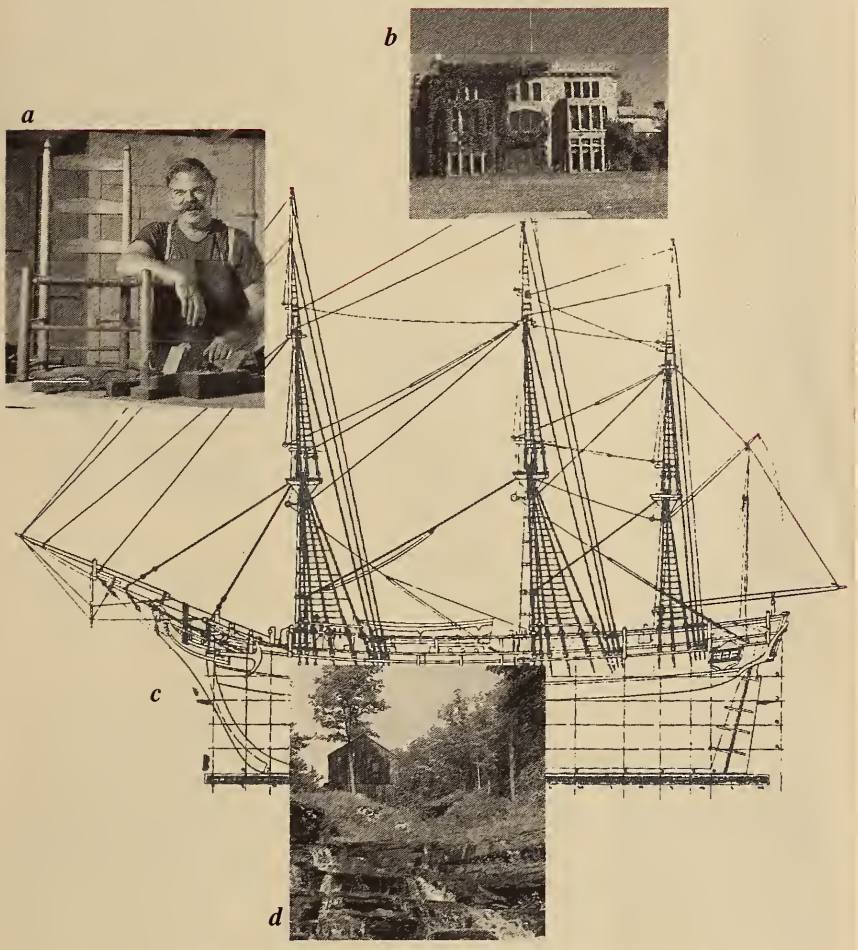
8 **Moore State Park**

The rural mills at Moore State Park in Paxton bring back memories of America's early industrial period amidst a beautifully flowering landscape with waterfalls and mill ponds. A self-guided historical walk allows visitors to imagine the mill village that flourished here.

Mill Street, Paxton (508) 792-3969 *Route 2 west to Route 31 south, follow signs to entrance on right.*

FRONT PANEL:
Background: Bird's-eye view of Fall River, Massachusetts, 1877. (Courtesy of the Fall River Historical Society)
Upper left: The Dillaway-Thomas House, Roxbury Heritage State Park, Boston, Massachusetts. (Photo by Steve Rosenthal)
Upper right: War Memorial at Mt. Greylock State Reservation. (Photo by Gene Peach)
Lower left: Barge on the Blackstone Canal, 1830's. (Courtesy of the Worcester Historical Museum)
Lower right: Print room at Pacific Mills, Lawrence, Massachusetts, 1914. (Courtesy of Immigrant City Archives, Lawrence, Massachusetts)

Across the Commonwealth, State Forests and Parks offer unique opportunities to learn more about the history of Massachusetts in extraordinary urban and rural surroundings.



a Chairmaking in the shop, Gardner Heritage State Park. (Photo by Stephen Ostrowski)
b The Ames Mansion, Borderland State Park. (Photo by Gene Peach)
c The H.M.S. Bounty, Fall River, Massachusetts. (DEM File Photo)
d Sawmill at Moore State Park. (Photo by Gene Peach)

Other publications available:
Massachusetts State Forests and Parks Access to the Outdoors

Additional information on the sites included in this brochure is available at each park.

FOR more information on the Massachusetts State Forests and Parks System, please call or write:
DEM, Division of Forests and Parks
100 Cambridge Street, 19th Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02202
(617) 727-3180 1-800-831-0569 (In Mass.)

Planter at Borderland State Park. (Photo by Gene Peach)

NORTHEAST

9 Bradley Palmer State Park

The former estate of Bradley Palmer rests among the rolling hills adjacent to the Ipswich River. Palmer, a noted attorney of the early 1900's, represented Sinclair Oil in the Teapot Dome Scandal and President Wilson at the Versailles Peace Conference following World War I. Today, the estate's array of flowering shrubs, fruit trees and evergreens welcome visitors along the avenues and paths of the park.

Asbury Street, Topsfield (508) 887-5931 *Route 1 to Topsfield, right on Ipswich Road (approximately 2 miles), right on Asbury Street, park entrance is 100 yards on left.*

10 Great Brook Farm State Park

The landscape at Great Brook Farm State Park evokes images of our agricultural past, where open fields and woodlands provide a beautiful setting for the park's working dairy farm. Walking trails throughout the park also bring hikers past significant Native American sites.

Lowell Road, Carlisle (508) 369-6312 *Route 495 to Routes 4 and 110 (Chelmsford), follow Route 4 south through Chelmsford Center, right at fork onto Concord Road, park entrance is two miles on left.*

11 Halibut Point State Park

For nearly 100 years, "Haul-About" Point was the site of a working quarry. Last owned by the Rockport Granite Company, the Babson Farm Quarry operated until 1929. Today, a self-guided tour takes visitors around the remains of the abandoned quarry amidst magnificent views of Cape Ann and the Atlantic Coast.

Gott Avenue, Rockport (508) 546-2997 *Route 128 to Gloucester, at first traffic circle, go 3/4 way around to Route 127 (toward Pigeon Cove), drive approximately 15 minutes to Rockport, left onto Gott Avenue by Old Farm Inn.*

12 Lawrence Heritage State Park

A restored boarding house with two floors of interactive exhibits tells the tale of Lawrence, one of the nation's first planned industrial cities. Along with stories of Lawrence's mill workers and industry, the workers' role in the historic 1912 Bread and Roses Strike is relived with images and sounds. Walk along the esplanade of a nineteenth-century canal and through a park created within the walls of an industrial-era building.

Corner of Canal and Jackson Streets, Lawrence (508) 794-1655 *Route 495 Lawrence to exit 45 (Marston Street), left onto Canal Street.*

13 Lowell Heritage State Park

Lowell boasts a remarkable network of nineteenth-century canals created to provide power to the bustling textile mills that operated along the water's edge. Today, the buildings

remain and continue to evoke the sense of a great industrial city. Visitors can participate in activities, including canal rides, and explore exhibits about Lowell's role in America's industrial history presented in conjunction with the Lowell National Historical Park.

Market Street, Lowell (508) 453-0592 *Route 495 to Lowell Connector exit, to exit 5N (Thorndike Street), follow signs to parking lot.*

14 Maudslay State Park

The Moseley estate, known as Maudsleigh from the 1860's to the 1970's, is known today as Maudslay State Park. One of the wealthiest families in New England, the Moseleys, hired Charles Sprague Sargeant and Martha Brooks Hutcheson, one of the first female landscape architects, to shape the grounds of their estate. These spectacular grounds and gardens are now open to the public.

Curzon Mill Road, Newburyport (508) 465-7223 *Route 95 to Route 113 east, left onto Noble Street, at stop sign turn left onto Ferry Road, bear left at fork, follow signs to park.*

Plan of formal gardens at Maudslay State Park. (Drawing by Lauren Meier)

BOSTON

15 Borderland State Park

The estate known as Borderland was once home to Oakes Ames, a noted botanist and his wife Blanche, an artist and activist in the women's suffrage movement of the early 1900's. Both Blanche and Oakes came from prominent Massachusetts families known for their contributions to American industry and politics, including the construction of the first transcontinental railroad. Today, the estate grounds are open to the public and guided tours of the mansion are regularly scheduled.

Massapoag Avenue, North Easton (508) 238-6566 *Route 93 to Route 128 to Route 95 south, take exit 10 and bear left to Sharon Center, proceed through Sharon Square, immediate right onto Pond Street, at rotary by Massapoag Lake take Massapoag Avenue, park is approximately 4 miles down Massapoag Avenue on left.*

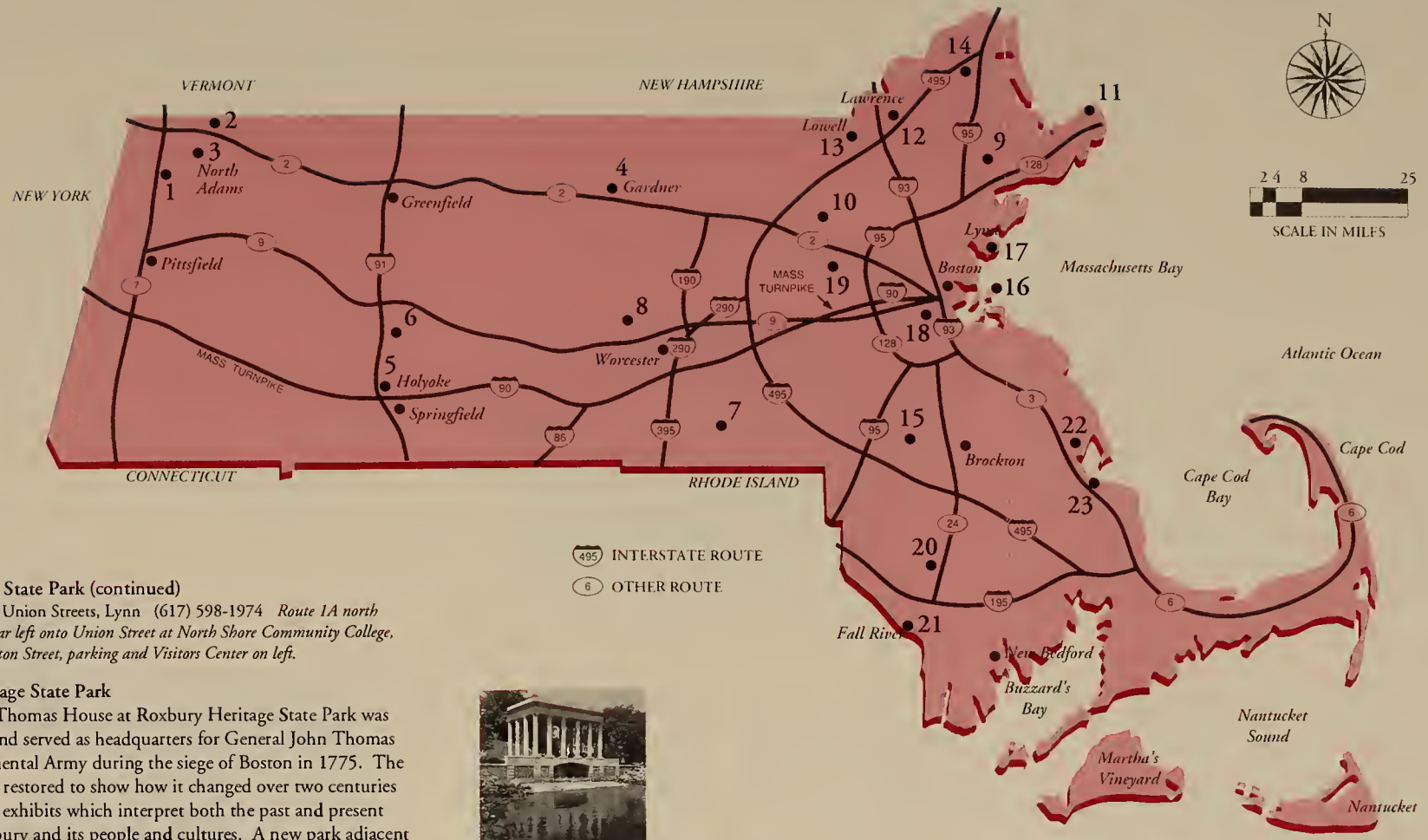
16 Boston Harbor Islands State Park

The islands of Boston Harbor combine historic ruins and forts with scenic and natural splendor only a short passenger ferry ride from New England's largest city. Island visitors are treated to spectacular views of Boston and its active harbor.

349 Lincoln Street, Hingham (617) 740-1605 *Take ferry from Long Wharf in Boston (site of New England Aquarium) Also accessible by ferry from Hingham and Lynn. Call for directions and ferry schedules.*

17 Lynn Heritage State Park

Exhibits and tours highlight the innovation and industry of Lynn, the turn-of-the-century shoemaking capital of the U.S. and the birthplace of the jet engine. A boardwalk stroll at the harborfront park features an extraordinary mosaic mural on Lynn's history.



Lynn Heritage State Park (continued)
Washington and Union Streets, Lynn (617) 598-1974 *Route 1A north through Lynn, bear left onto Union Street at North Shore Community College, right on Washington Street, parking and Visitors Center on left.*

18 Roxbury Heritage State Park
The Dillaway-Thomas House at Roxbury Heritage State Park was built in 1750 and served as headquarters for General John Thomas and the Continental Army during the siege of Boston in 1775. The house has been restored to show how it changed over two centuries and now offers exhibits which interpret both the past and present history of Roxbury and its people and cultures. A new park adjacent to the Dillaway-Thomas House provides a scenic overlook of downtown Boston.

John Eliot Square, 183 Roxbury Street, Roxbury (617) 445-3399 *From North (Route 93) or South (Route 3) take exit 18 (Massachusetts Avenue, Roxbury) to light at Massachusetts Avenue (past the light, road becomes Melnea Cass Boulevard), left onto Shawmut Avenue, follow to end, right onto Roxbury Street which forks to the left heading toward John Eliot Square.*

19 Walden Pond State Reservation
Thanks to Henry David Thoreau, the noted American author, Walden Pond may be the world's most famous body of fresh water. Today, visitors come from all over the world, some for recreation and relaxation, and others to contemplate the philosophical, literary and environmental significance of Thoreau's *Walden*. The site is designated a National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service.

Route 126, Concord (508) 369-3254 *Route 2 to Route 126 south, parking on left.*

Portico at Plymouth Rock, Pilgrim Memorial State Park. (Photo by Gene Peach)

SOUTHEAST

20 Dighton Rock State Park
A riverbank stone known as Dighton Rock once rested on the shore of the Taunton River where it was covered with carvings and letters. Today the rock is preserved in a museum which features the most widely believed interpretations of the rock and carvings, the earliest of which have been dated to at least the seventeenth century.

Bayview Road, Berkley (508) 644-5522 *Route 24 to exit 10 west, left on Friends Street, follow signs to park. (Open only by appointment).*

21 Fall River Heritage State Park
The Visitors Center at Battleship Cove features a multimedia presentation, "The Fabric of Fall River," depicting the city's fascinating textile history and the immigrant communities which made it prosperous. Along the waterfront, visitors can enjoy a newly restored merry-go-round, the Maritime Museum and ships moored nearby, including the battleship *U.S.S. Massachusetts* and the Class A tallship *H.M.S. Bounty.*

Davol Street, Fall River (508) 675-5759 *Route 24 south to first Fall River exit after airport exit, right onto Route 79, follow signs for Heritage State Park and Battleship Cove.*

a The Summit House at Skinner State Park, post-1867. (DEM File Illustration)

b Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) workers laying log flooring on bridge in Charlemont, Massachusetts. (DEM File Photo) Founded by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the CCC worked on many trails, buildings and forest areas throughout Massachusetts State Parks that are still visible today.

c View of Lowell, Massachusetts in the 1850's. (Courtesy of the University of Massachusetts, Center for Lowell History)

22 Myles Standish Monument State Reservation

The 116-foot tower is a monument to Myles Standish, one of the founding fathers of the Plymouth Colony. Visitors can climb the monument for 360-degree views overlooking Duxbury Bay and Plymouth Harbor.

Crescent Street, Duxbury (508) 866-2580 *Route 3 to Route 3A north, Take either Chestnut or Depot Street to South Duxbury Center (Halls Corner), Standish Street to Crescent Street, entrance on left. (Open only during July and August).*

23 Pilgrim Memorial State Park

Plymouth Rock, a symbol of the founding of the American colonies, is located in Pilgrim Memorial State Park along the Plymouth waterfront. The well-known story of the Pilgrims' landing at Plymouth, represented by this small rock, is ingrained in the consciousness of all Americans.

Water Street, Plymouth (508) 866-2580 *Route 3 to exit 6 (Route 44), follow Route 44 east to intersection with Route 3A, cross Route 3A and take Park Street to traffic circle, first exit is Water Street.*

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Environmental Management
Division of Forests and Parks and Office of Historic Resources

William F. Weld, Governor
Argeo Paul Cellucci, Lt. Governor
Trudy Coxe, Secretary
Peter C. Webber, Commissioner

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PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER
1995